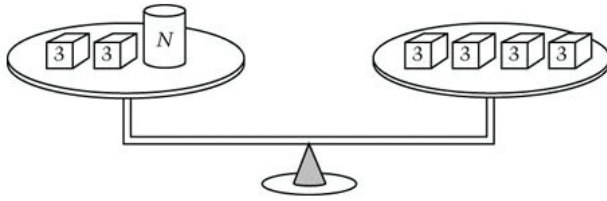


The following are examples of past NAEP questions and the correct responses:

4th Grade Mathematics:

The weights on the scale below are balanced. Each cube weighs 3 pounds. The cylinder weighs N pounds. Which number sentence best describes this situation?



- ▶ A) $6 + N = 12$
- B) $6 + N = 4$
- C) $2 + N = 12$
- D) $2 + N = 4$

8th Grade Science:

A human CANNOT survive the loss of which of the following?

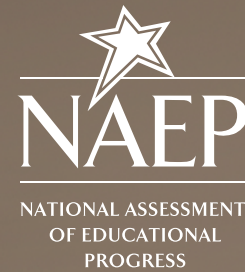
- A) The appendix
- ▶ B) The liver
- C) A lung
- D) A kidney

12th Grade Reading:

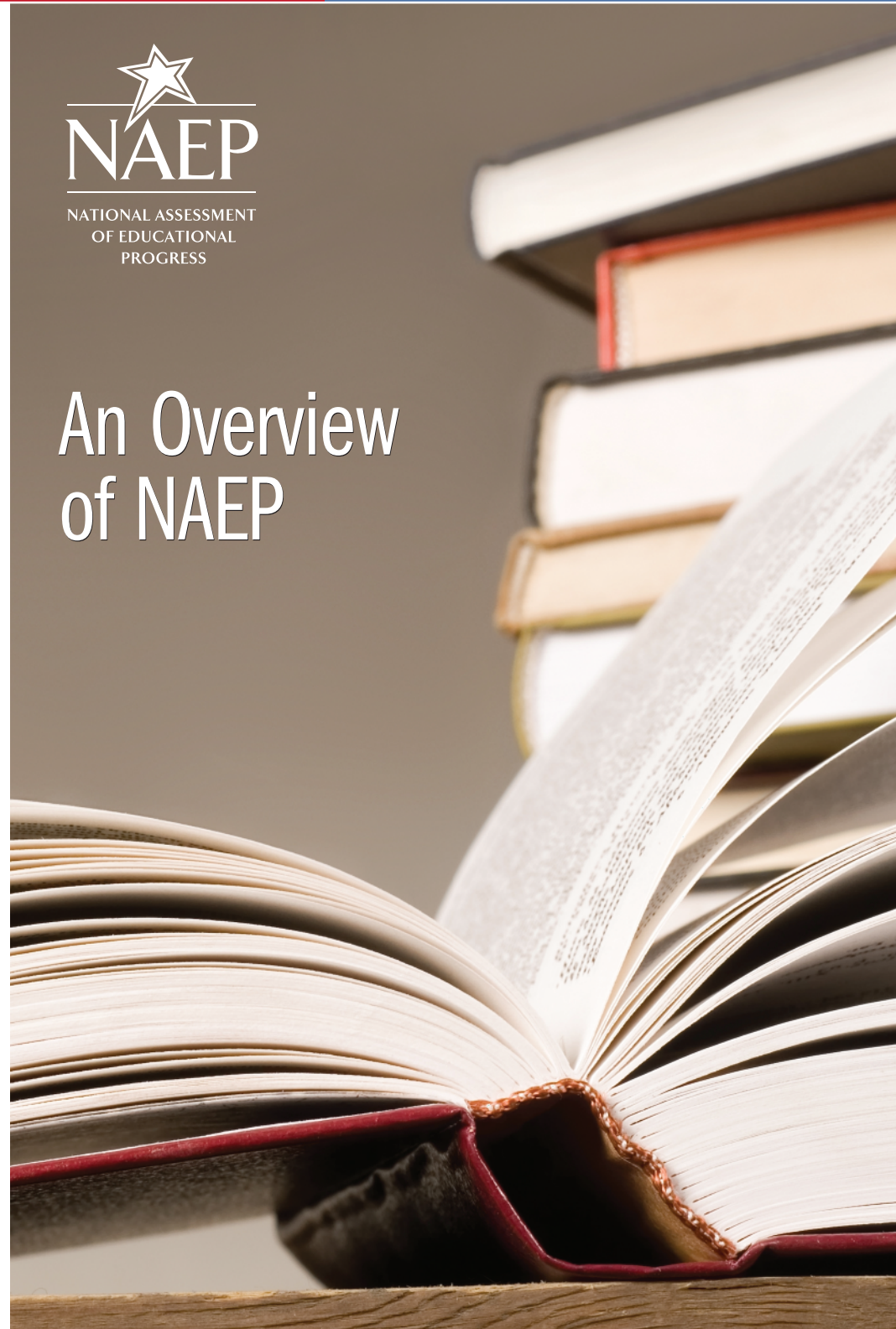
For the following question, students read a guide that explained a subway system's fares and passes. The response below shows evidence of full comprehension.

What is the guide to Metro's Fares and Passes supposed to help you do?

The guide is supposed to help you decide
which type of pass or ticket would be best
for you based on how often you ride, how
long, or if you are handicapped



An Overview of NAEP



What is NAEP?

The National Assessment of Educational Progress—NAEP—is the only ongoing, nationally representative assessment of what students know and can do. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), a division within the U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences, administers NAEP. NAEP plays an important role in American education because it monitors student progress over time and reports student achievement state-by-state in some subjects. For over 30 years, policymakers, educators, researchers, and the public have relied on NAEP data and called NAEP the “gold standard” of assessments.

What does NAEP assess?

Assessments are conducted each year in a range of subjects, including reading, mathematics, writing, science, U.S. history, and civics. NAEP is administered to a representative sample of students, primarily at the fourth, eighth, and twelfth grades. These grade levels are selected because they represent critical junctures in academic achievement.

Who decides the assessment content?

NAEP is mandated by Congress and its policy and assessment schedule are set by the National Assessment Governing Board. The Governing Board consults with educators, curriculum developers, school administrators, teachers, and researchers on the design and development of the frameworks, assessments, and specific test questions.

How is NAEP different than other assessments?

NAEP provides a common yardstick for measuring the progress of children’s education across the country. Each state can evaluate its progress over time and in comparison to national results. There are no individual results for students, teachers, or schools.

Why is student participation valuable?

NAEP does not attempt to assess every student in the United States; rather, NAEP uses a representative sample. The students selected represent the geographic, racial, ethnic, and socio-economic diversity that is America’s student body today. Participation is important because each student’s performance represents hundreds of other similar students.

What happens when students take NAEP?

- NAEP is administered during regular school hours.
- All materials are provided at the time that the assessment is taken.
- Students spend about 90 minutes taking the assessment, including answering a section on background information such as the amount of reading they do and what types of classes they take.
- Accommodations are provided as necessary for students with disabilities and/or English language learners.

Where are the results of NAEP reported?

The results of NAEP are called The Nation’s Report Card because they report the educational progress of students across the nation. The report release web site—<http://nationsreportcard.gov>—includes specific pages and resources for parents, educators, researchers, and policymakers. The results are reported for students overall and by various student groups, such as race/ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic status.

Printed reports can be ordered free of charge by calling 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

What online resources are available?

- The NAEP Data Explorer, an important NAEP analysis tool, provides information about NAEP results and can be accessed at: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nde>
- To see over 2,000 sample questions, including scoring guides and sample student responses, go to: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrls>
- General information about NAEP is also available on the NCES web site at: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>